

Illinois Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

by Larry Rausch

This article details those towns using the Wheel of Fortune postmark that I have identified for the states of Illinois.

In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

Here is where you can help... by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these Covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com. All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.

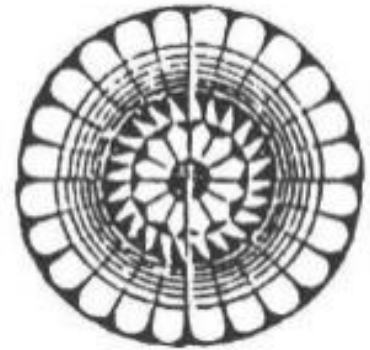


Fig. 1

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller (Fig. 1). Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below (Fig. 2) may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.

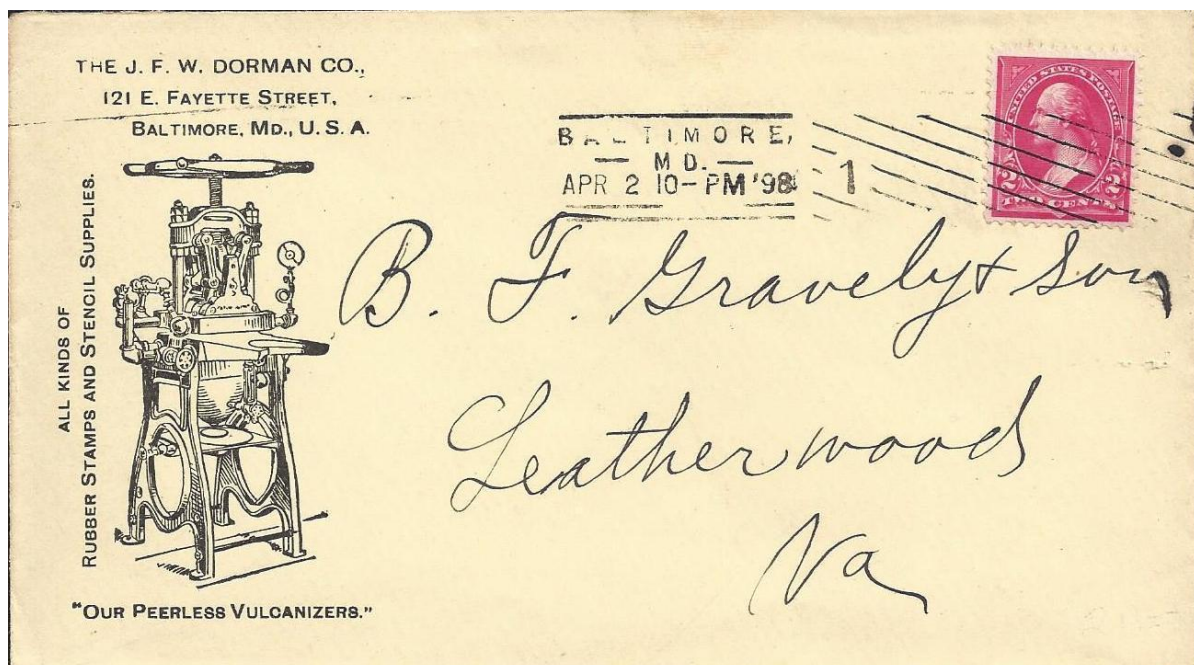


Figure 2. Illustrated advertising cover for the "Peerless Vulcanizers" which made rubber handstamp devices, like the Wheel of Fortune killer, possible.

The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide (Fig. 3). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin. Illinois has many covers dated in 1880—one of the earliest is dated October 12, 1880 from Clifton, Illinois (Fig.4).

(Note: In the advertisement under "Best Offer", this Cancellor and kit cost \$3.00.)

" WHEEL OF FORTUNE "

No. 529.

POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

For the most complete line of articles used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,
 " Note Headings,
 Stamp Ribbons (all colors),
 Money Order Daters,
 Post-Office Daters,
 Registered Letter Daters,
 Received Daters,
 Patent Inking Pads,
 P. O. Canceling Ink (*by Express*),
 P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,
 Twine Cutters,
 Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,
 Coin Detectors,
 Paper Weights,
 Letter and Package Scales,
 Check Protectors,
 Gem Type Case,

THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Cancellor, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a Post Office, this style type: **UNCLAIMED**
 By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.


PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.

Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much. Jous Cecil, P. M., California, Md.
 The \$3 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this evening. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction. — JAS. S. HARRIS, P. M., Orangeburg, N. Y.
 The Rubber Stamps, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all right and meet with favor with those who have examined them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability. — T. W. LITTLE, P. M., Picture Rocks, Pa.
 I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction. — W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Sheffield, Iowa.
 I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations. Wm. J. Kiser, P. M., Massville, Mo.
 The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it. — CHAS. COON, P. M., Albion, Idaho.
 Your Box Record received, and is all O. K. — J. W. FROW, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.
 The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them. — ED. S. MENARD, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.


Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address
F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.



No. 530.



No. 531.



No. 532.




Fig. 3



Clifton, Illinois
Oct. 12, 1880

Fig. 4

Wheel of Fortune cancels/killers were generally used in conjunction (as a duplex) with town postmarks, as shown (Fig. 5) in Types 1 through 6; however, the WOF is known stand-alone as well (Type 0) as shown in the Homer, Illinois cover (Fig. 6).

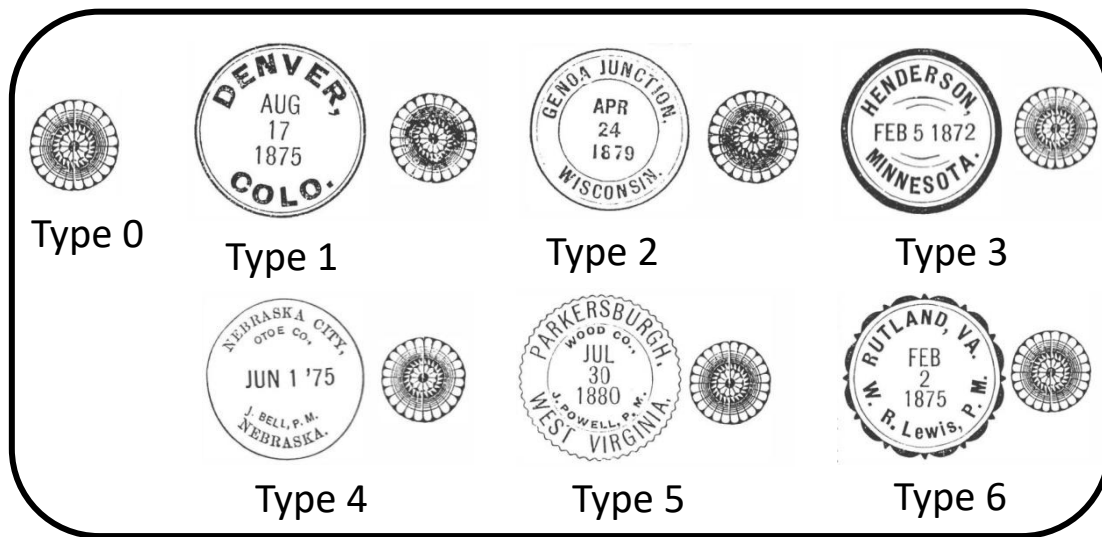


Figure 5

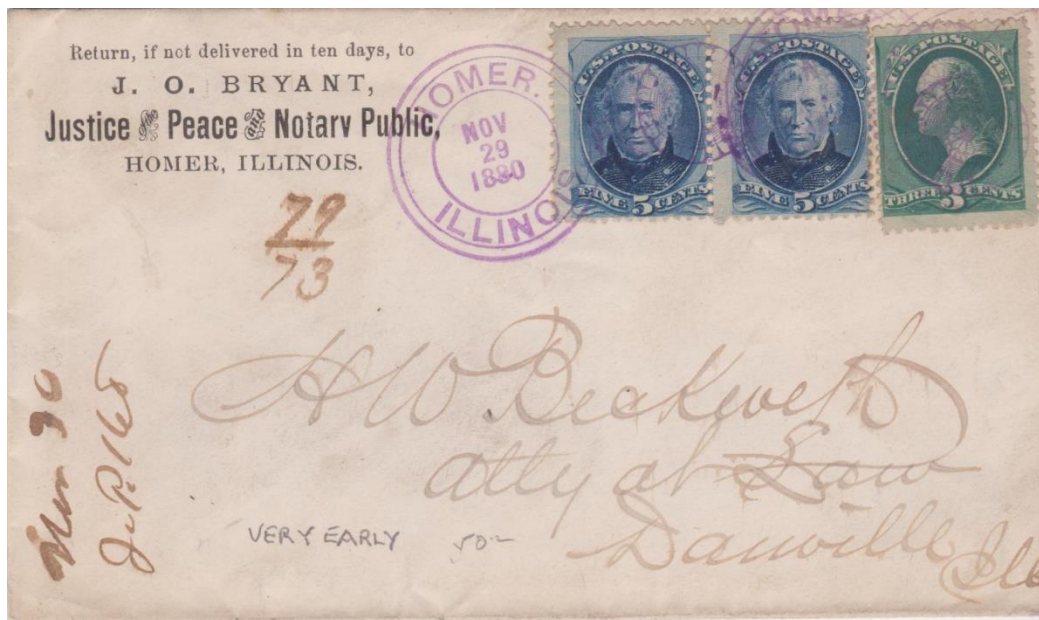


Fig 6 Homer, Illinois Nov. 29, 1880

The 1995 book "Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894" by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for Illinois he listed 50 towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 63 Illinois WOF covers listed. To date, 92 different Illinois towns have been identified (Fig. 7-9). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.

Reference:

- 1) Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
- 2) US Cancellation Club News
- 3) Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane

count	Town	Photo	Usage Range	type	Postmark Includes County	Cover Date
1	IL Aledo *				Mercer county	
2	IL Amboy **	p	1882	2	Lee county	82-4-4
3	IL Annawan * **	p	1886-93	2	Henry County	86-10-15
	IL Annawan	p	1886-93	2	Henry County	93-4-6
4	IL Armstrong *				Vermilion County	
5	IL Athensville **	p	1883	1	Greene County	83-5-26
6	IL Augusta **	p	1884	2	Hancock County	84-5-13
	IL Augusta	p	1884	2	Hancock County	84-9-8
	IL Augusta	p	1884	2	Hancock County	84-12-9
7	IL Barr's Store **	p	1886	1	Macoupin County	86-12-8
8	IL Bath * **	p	1885	1	Mason County	85-8-26
9	IL Beecher	p	1883	0	Will County	83-2-12
	IL Beecher * **	p	1883	0	Will County	83-3-16
10	IL Belle Rive * **	p	1881	2	Jefferson County	81-10-15
11	IL Berwick **	p	1883	0	Warren County	83-6-11
12	IL Blackberry Station * **	p	1885	2	Kane County	85-11-6
13	IL Bluff Springs * **	p	1885	0	Cass County	85-11-10
14	IL Boyleston	p	1885	0	Wayne County	85-3-10
	IL Boyleston **	p	1885	0	Wayne County	85-7-2
15	IL Braceville *				Grundy County	
	IL Brimfield	p	1884	1	Peoria County	84-7-11
16	IL Brimfield *	p	1884	1	Peoria County	84-9-2
17	IL Browinng **	p	1884	3	Schuyler County	84-2-28
18	IL Butler * **	p	1884-5	1	Montgomery County	84-2-9
	IL Butler	p	1884-5	1	Montgomery County	85-8-17
19	IL Channahon **	p	1884	1	Will County	84-1-4
20	IL Chillicothe **		1884	0	Peoria County	84-9-18
21	IL Claremont **	p	1888	0	Richland County	88-4-3
22	IL Clifton	p	1880	2	Iroquois County	80-10-12
	IL Clifton * **	p	1880	2	Iroquois County	XX-4-11
23	IL Clinton				DeWitt County	
24	IL Cordova **	p	1886	1	Rock Island County	86-3-3
25	IL Courtland *				De Kalb County	
26	IL Courtland Sta. **	p	1883	5	De Kalb County	Co 83-4-8
27	IL Cuba	p	1884		Fulton County	84-7-30
	IL Cuba	p	1884		Fulton County	84-9-10
	IL Cuba	p	1884		Fulton County	84-9-20
28	IL Dallas City *				Hancock County	
29	IL Danforth **	p	1885	2	Iroquois County	85-9-14
30	IL Davis * **	p	1880-5	2	Stephenson County	80-5-19
	IL Davis	p	1880-5	2	Stephenson County	85-12-26

Figure 7

			Usage		Postmark Includes		Cover
count	Town	Photo	Range	type	County		Date
31	IL Dekalb * **	p	1884	1	De Kalb County		84-10-3
32	IL Delavan * **	p	1887-8	2	Tazewell County		87-6-23
	IL Delavan		1887-8	2	Tazewell County		87-10-19
	IL Delavan	p	1887-8	2	Tazewell County		88-4-12
33	IL Dixon *				Lee county		
34	IL Elkhart * **	p		2	Logan County		xx-11-12
35	IL Ellsworth * **	p	1881	2	Mc Lean County		81-8-9
36	IL Elwood *	p	1881	2	Will County		81-3-2
37	IL Elmwood				Peoria County		
38	IL Essex *				Kankakee County		
39	IL Galesburg *				Knox County		
40	IL Gardner **	p	1881-2	2	Grundy County		81-11-21
	IL Gardner	p	1881-2	2	Grundy County		82-9-27
41	IL Goodwine *				Iroquois County		
42	IL Greenbush **	p	1885	0	Warren County		85-1-10
43	IL Greenfield **	p	1883	2	Greene County		83-7-5
44	IL Harrisonville **	p	1892	5	Monroe County	PM/Co	92-1-23
45	IL Hebron * **	p	1883-5	2	McHenry County		83-11-19
	IL Hebron	p	1883-5	2	McHenry County		84-3-17
	IL Hebron		1883-5	2	McHenry County		85-8-10
46	IL Hettick **	p	1888	1	Macoupin County		88-10-11
47	IL Hillsboro * **		1883		Montgomery County		83-10-16
48	IL Hillsborough	p	1884	2	Montgomery County		84-2-8
	IL Hillsborough	p	1884	2	Montgomery County		84-4-14
49	IL Homer **	p	1880	2	Champaign County		80-11-29
50	IL Hoosier Prairie **	p	1883	0	Clay County		83-10-5
51	IL Kickapoo *				Peoria County		
52	IL Kramm *				Peoria County		
53	IL Lanesville * **	p	1889	1	Sangamon County		89-5-9
54	IL Leland * **	p	1887	1	La Salle County		87-2-17
55	IL Marengo **	p	1882	2	McHenry County		82-5-27
	IL Marengo	p	1882	2	McHenry County		82-5-16
56	IL McLean *		1883		McLean County		83-5-9
57	IL Meriden * **	p	1884	1	La Salle County		84-3-6
58	IL Metamora	p	1885	1	Woodford County		85-5-22
59	IL Milan * **	p	1884	1	Rock Island County		84-8-25
	IL Milan	p	1884	1	Rock Island County		xx-10-7
	IL Milan	p	1884	1	Rock Island County		XX-9-XX
60	IL Nameoki *				Madison County		
61	IL New Salem **				Pike County		
62	IL Norris City **	p	1882	2	White County		82-5-17
63	IL North Alton **	p	1889	2	Madison County		89-8-19

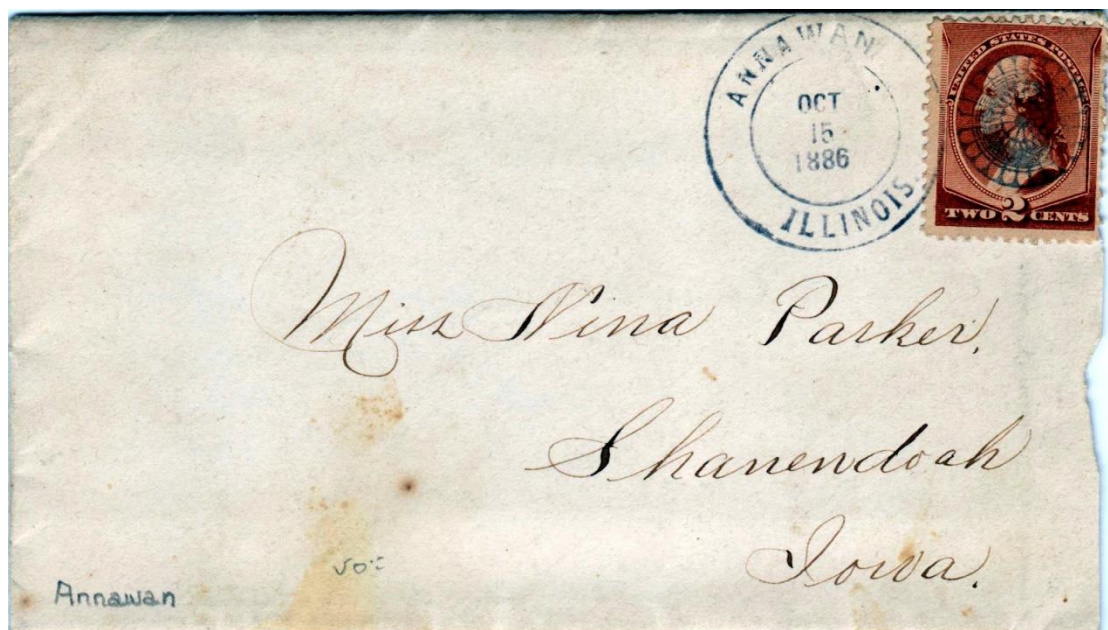
Figure 8

count	Town	Photo	Usage Range	type	Postmark Includes County	Cover Date
64	IL Odell	p	1884	2	Livingston County	Co 84-11-28
65	IL Oglesby **	p	1883	1	La Salle County	83-3-6
66	IL Onarga *				Iroquois County	
67	IL Peotone	p	1882	2	Will County	82-8-3
68	IL Plano * **				Kendall County	
69	IL Pratt * **	p	1885	0	Whiteside County	85-6-3
70	IL Pulaski **	p	1890	2	Pulaski County	90-2-14
71	IL Reading *				Livingston County	
72	IL Reno		1890		Bond County	
73	IL Ridge Farm **	p	1888	1	Vermillion County	88-6-30
74	IL River Forest * **	p	1888	0	Cook County	88-9-24
75	IL Rosemond **	p	1893	3	Christian County	93-6-6
76	IL Sailor Springs *				Clay County	
77	IL Savannah **	p	1882	2	Carroll County	82-5-21
78	IL St Francisville **	p	1885	0	Lawrence County	85-6-5
79	IL St Jacob * **	p	1886-93	4	Madison County	Co 86-11-15
	IL St Jacob		1886-93	4	Madison County	Co 93-6-12
80	IL Secor *	p	1883	2	Woodford County	83-1-2
81	IL Shabbona * **	p	1881-9	2	DeKalb County	81-11-26
	IL Shabbona	p	1881-9	2	DeKalb County	85-6-26
	IL Shabbona	p	1881-9	2	DeKalb County	89-6-21
82	IL South Evanston * **	p	1884	1	Cook County	84-2-26
	IL South Evanston * **	p	1884	1	Cook County	84-3-28
83	IL Stillman Valley * **	p	1887	1	Ogle County	87-5-23
84	IL Stone **	p	1885	0	Lee county	85-5-29
	IL Stone	p	1885	0	Lee county	85-9-14
85	IL Stonington **				Christian County	
86	IL Tower Hill **	p	1887	0	Shelby County	87-11-30
87	IL Tucker * **	p	1891	3	Washington County	91-2-3
	IL Tucker	p	1891	3	Washington County	91-2-17
	IL Tucker	p	1891	3	Washington County	91-3-16
	IL Tucker	p	1891	3	Washington County	91-7-15
88	IL Vera *				Madison County	
89	IL Voorheis *				Piatt County	
90	IL West McHenry * **		1883-7	0	McHenry County	83-9-24
	IL West McHenry	p	1883-7	0	McHenry County	84-10-17
	IL West McHenry	p	1883-7	0	McHenry County	86-6-1
	IL West McHenry	p	1883-7	0	McHenry County	87-2-11
91	IL Weston **	p	1883	2	McLean County	83-9-8
	IL Weston		1883	2	McLean County	83-X-X
92	IL Winnetka *				Cook County	
	* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale					

Figure 9



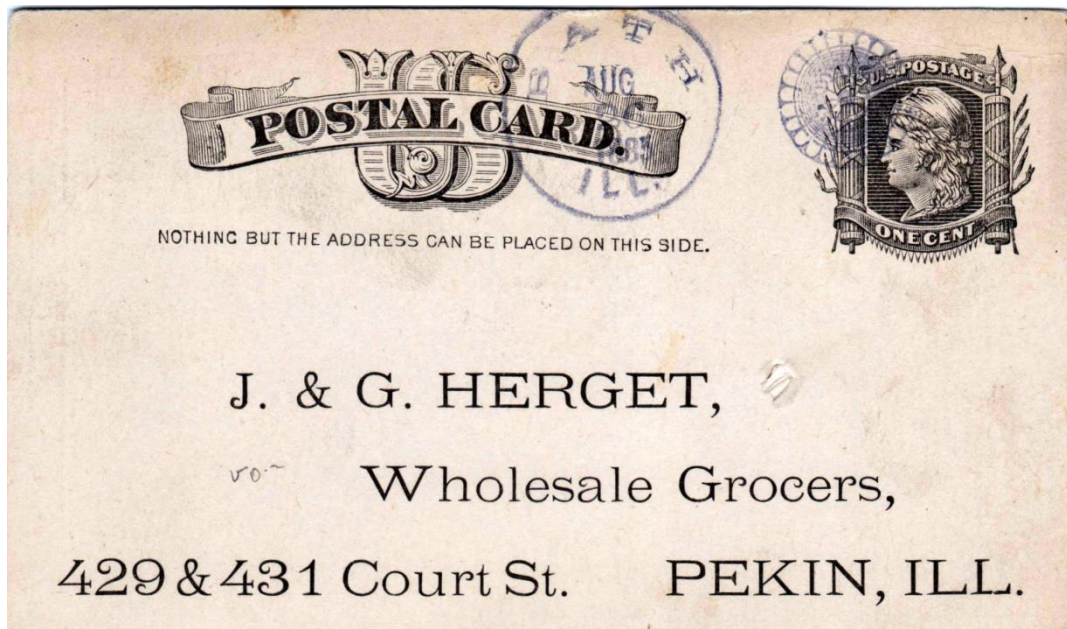
Amboy, Illinois
(Lee)
Apr 4, 1882



Annawan, Illinois
(Henry)
Oct 15, 1886



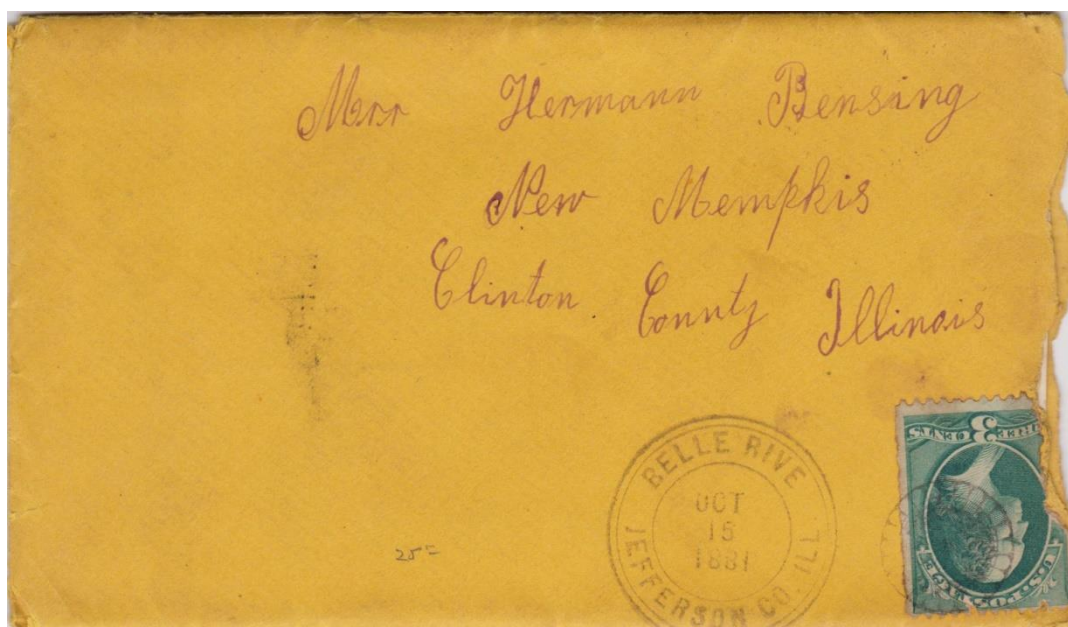
Augusta, ILLs
(Hancock)
Sep 8, 1884



Bath, ILL
 (Mason)
 Aug 26, 1885



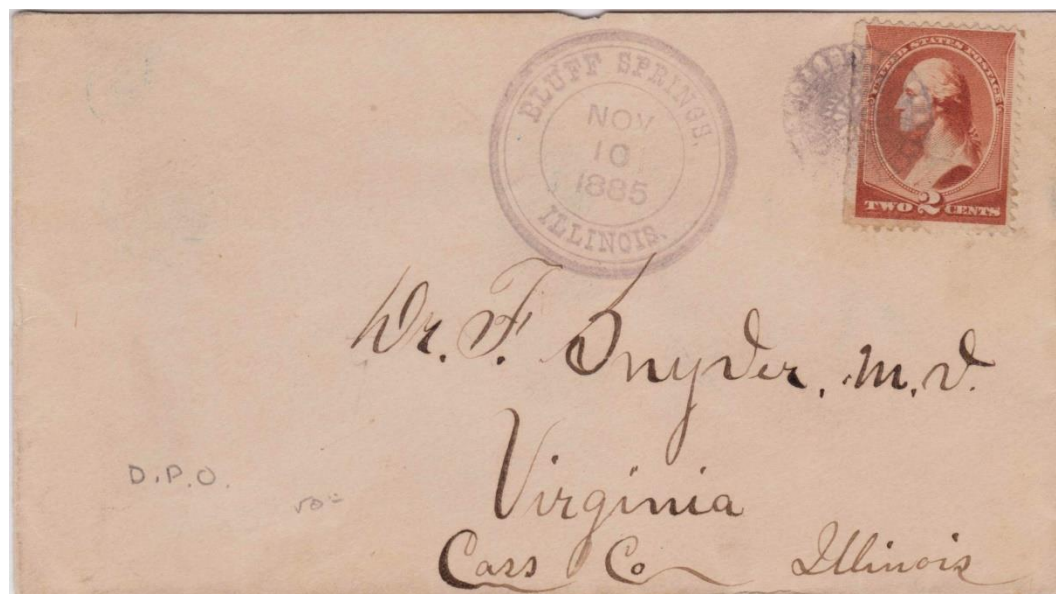
Beecher, Illinois
 (Will)
 Mar 16, 1883



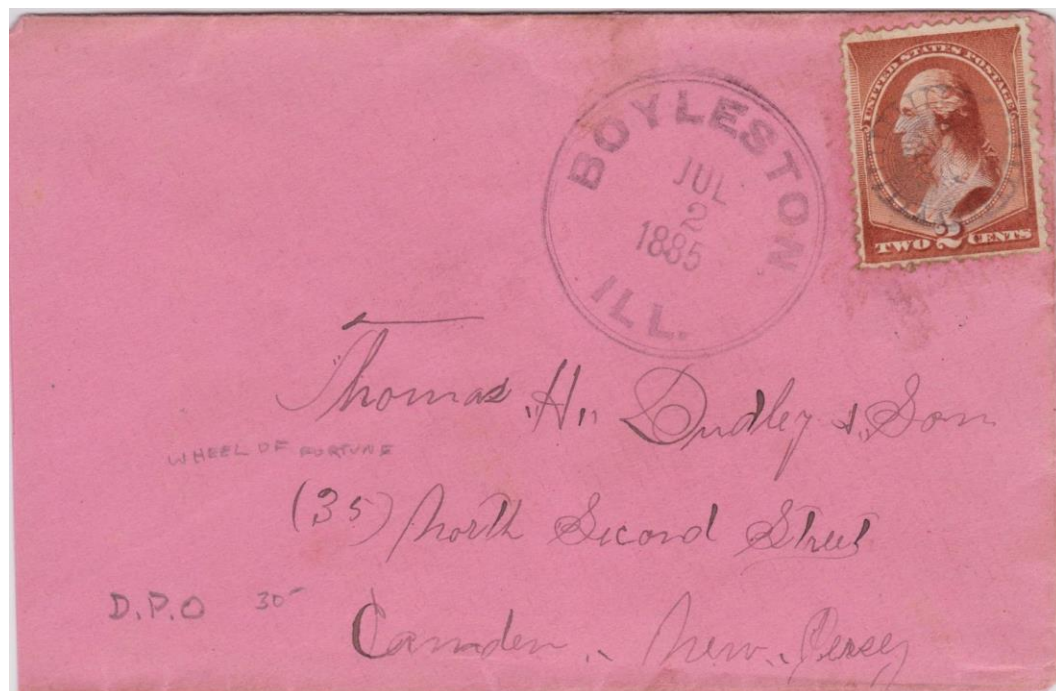
Belle Rive, ILL
 (Jefferson)
 Oct 15, 1881



Berwick, ILL
(Warren)
Jun 11, 1883



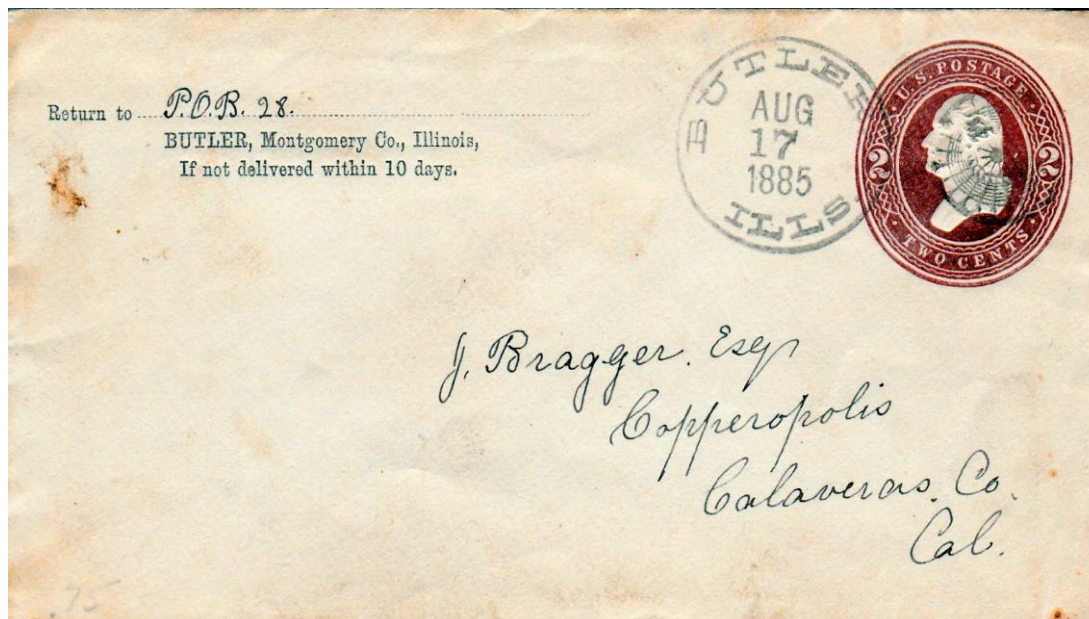
Bluff Springs, Illinois
(Cass)
Nov 10, 1885



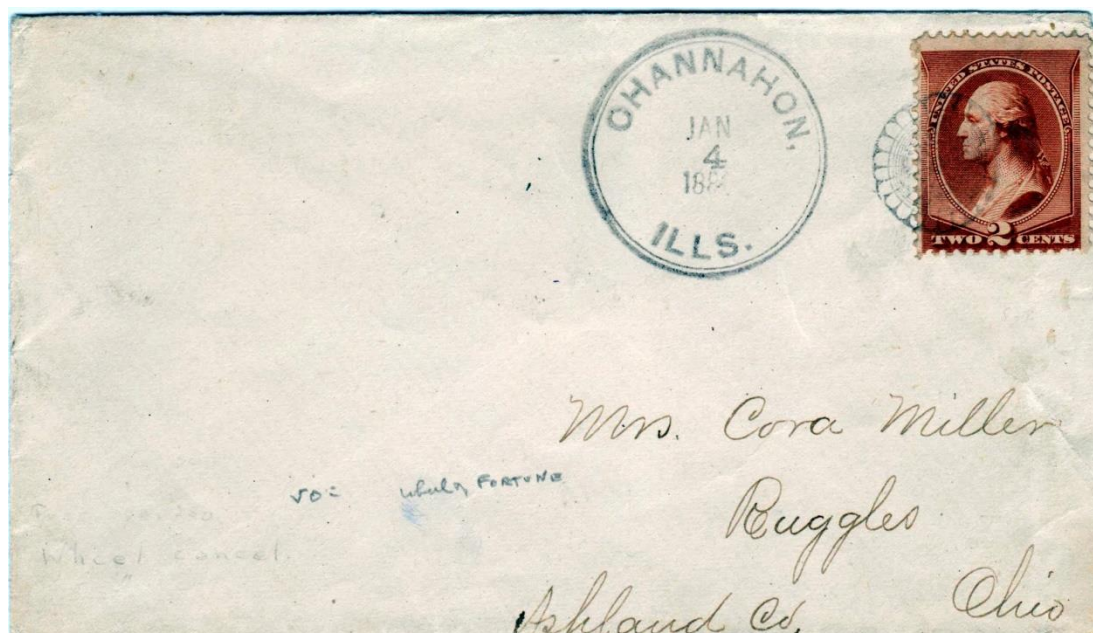
Boyleston, ILL
(Wayne)
Jul 2, 1885



Brimfield, ILL
(Peoria)
Jul 11, 1884



Butler, ILLS
(Montgomery)
Aug 17, 1885



Channahon, ILLS
(Will)
Jan 4, 1884



Mattie J. Davis
Wallace
Box 51
Ill

D.P.O.

75

whisker
portion

DeKalb co

Courtland Sta., ILLs
(DeKalb)
Apr 8, 1883



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.

Mrs. Rev. A. Johnson
Mt. Palatine
Putnam Co.
Ills

50

whisker
portion

Danforth, ILLS
(Iroquois)
Sep 14, 1885



Misses E. L. & I. J. Houghton.
Wellesley
Mass.

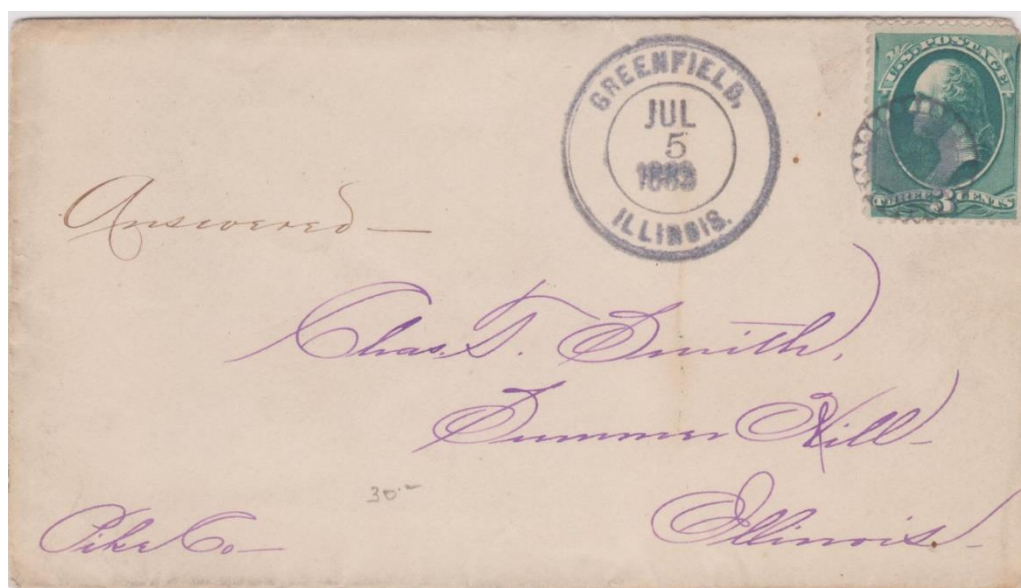
Dana Hale

75

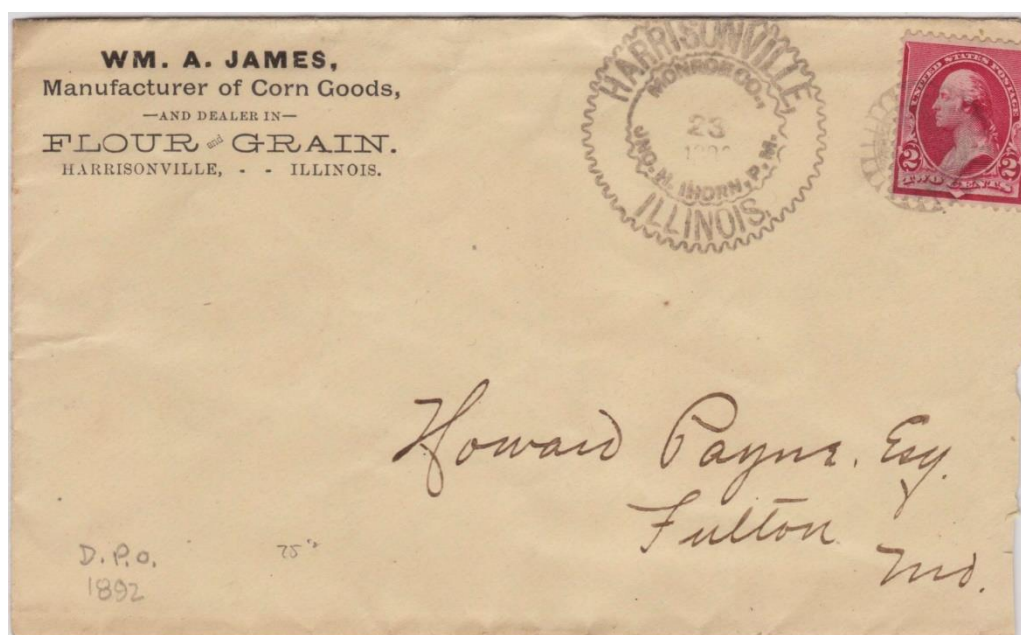
Delavan, Illinois
(Tazewell)
Jun 23, 1887



Gardner, Ill
(Grundy)
Nov 21, 1881



Greenfield, Illinois
(Greene)
Jul 5, 1883



Harrisonville, Illinois
(Monroe)
Jan 23, 1892



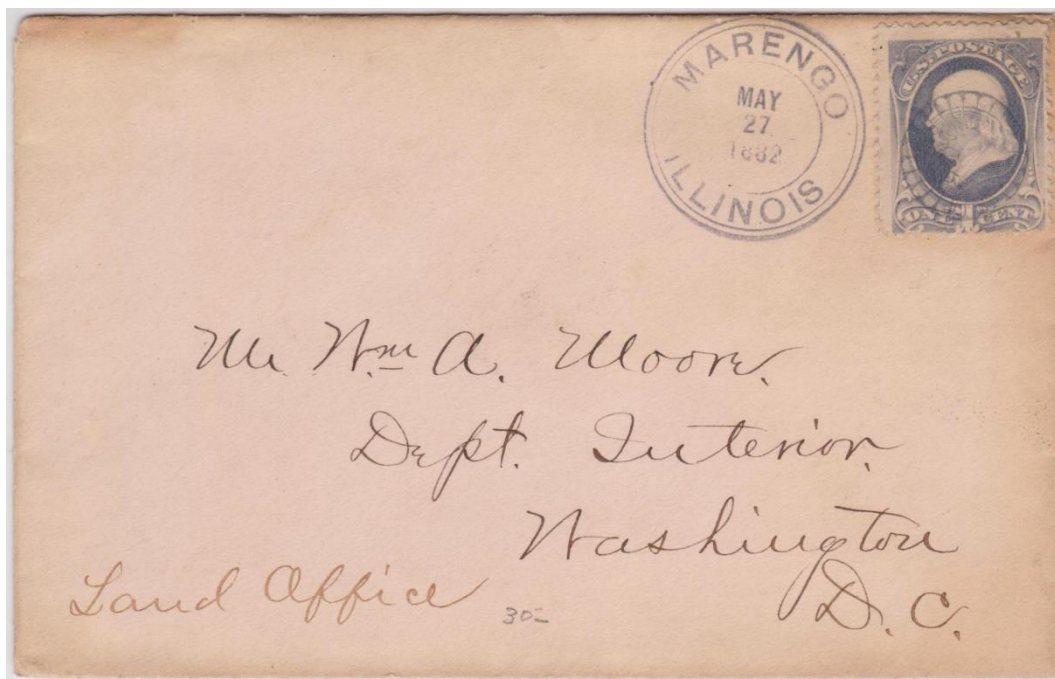
Hebron, ILLS
(McHenry)
Nov 19, 1883



Hillsborough, ILL
(Montgomery)
Apr 14, 1884

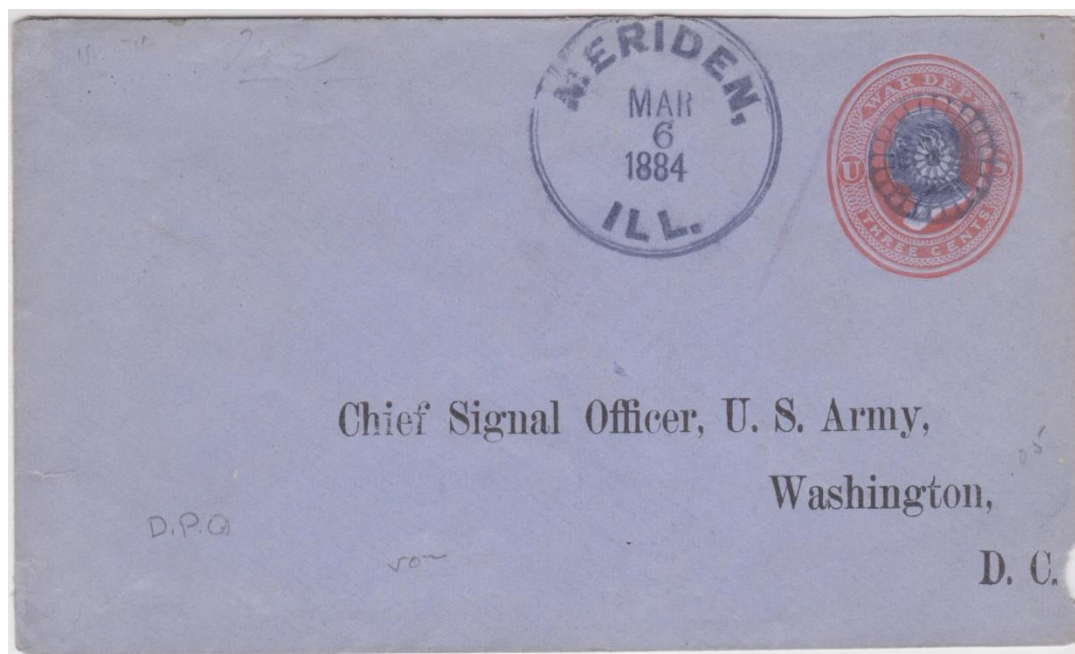


Laneville, Illinois
(Sangamon)
May 9, 1889



Mr. Wm. A. Moore,
Dept. Interior,
Washington
Land Office 302 D.C.

Marengo, Illinois
(McHenry)
May 27, 1882



Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army,
Washington,
D. C.

Meriden, ILL
(LaSalle)
Mar 6, 1884



Carpenter Organ Co.,

Mendota
Ill

These return to S. Palmer
Milan Ill., if not called for in
5 days

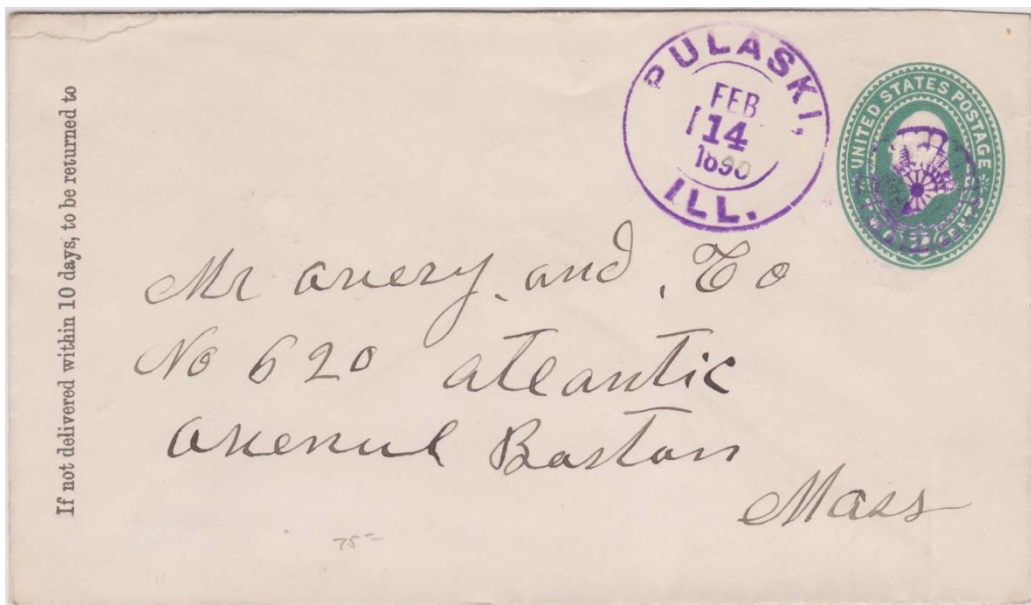
Milan, Illinois
(Rock Island)



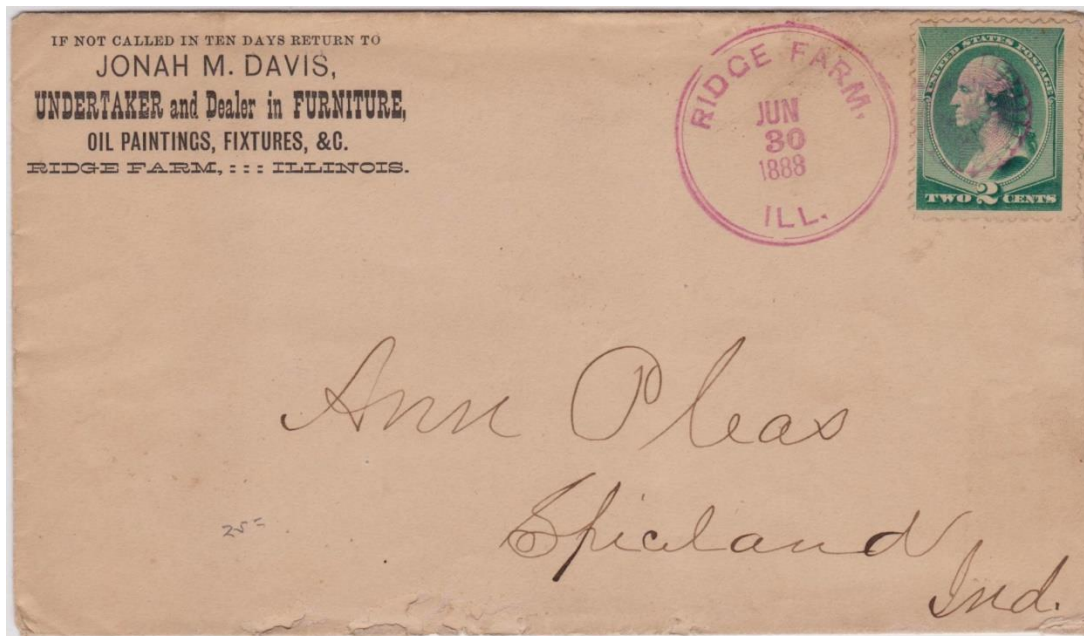
Norris City, Illinois
(White)
May 17, 1882



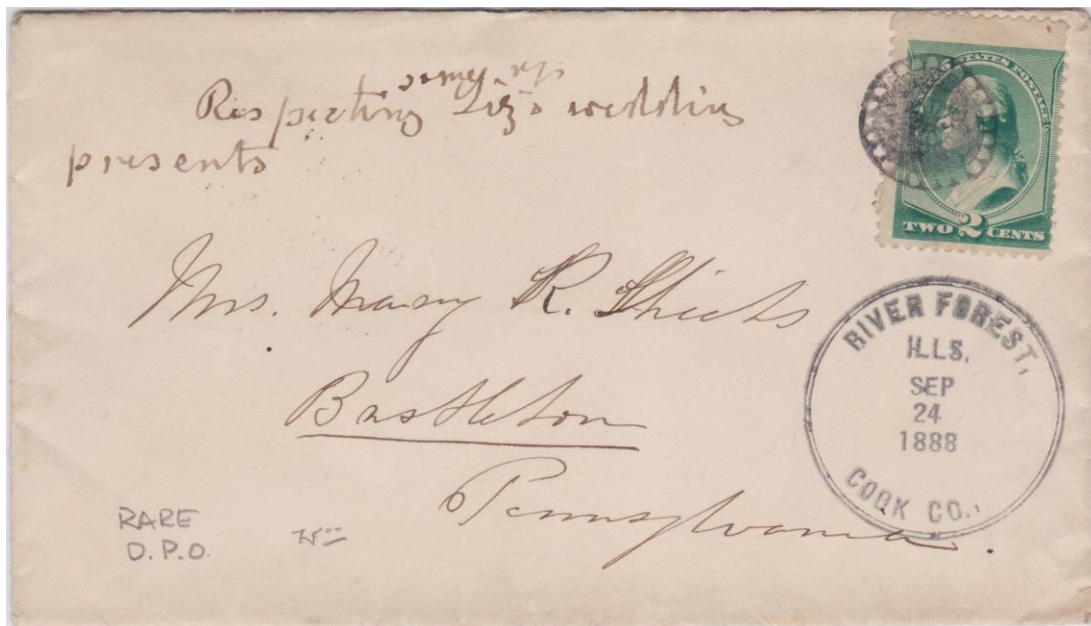
North Alton, ILL
(Madison)
Aug 19, 1889



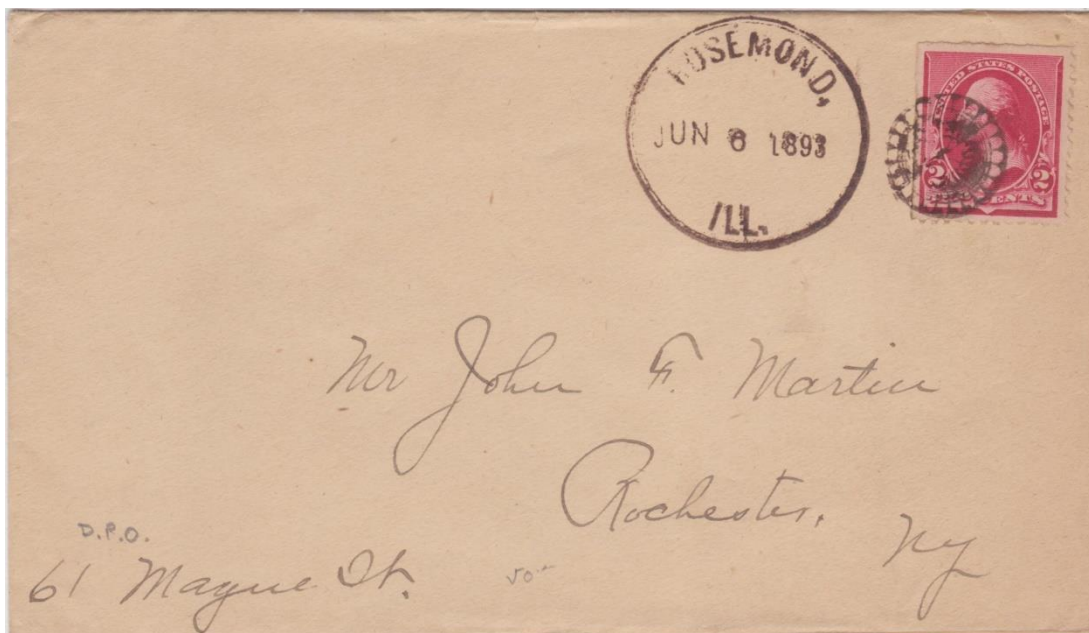
Pulaski, ILL
(Pulaski)
Feb 14, 1890



Ridge Farm, ILL
(Vermillion)
Jun 30, 1888



River Forest, ILLS
(Cook)
Sep 24, 1888



Rosemond, ILL
(Christian)
Jun 6, 1893



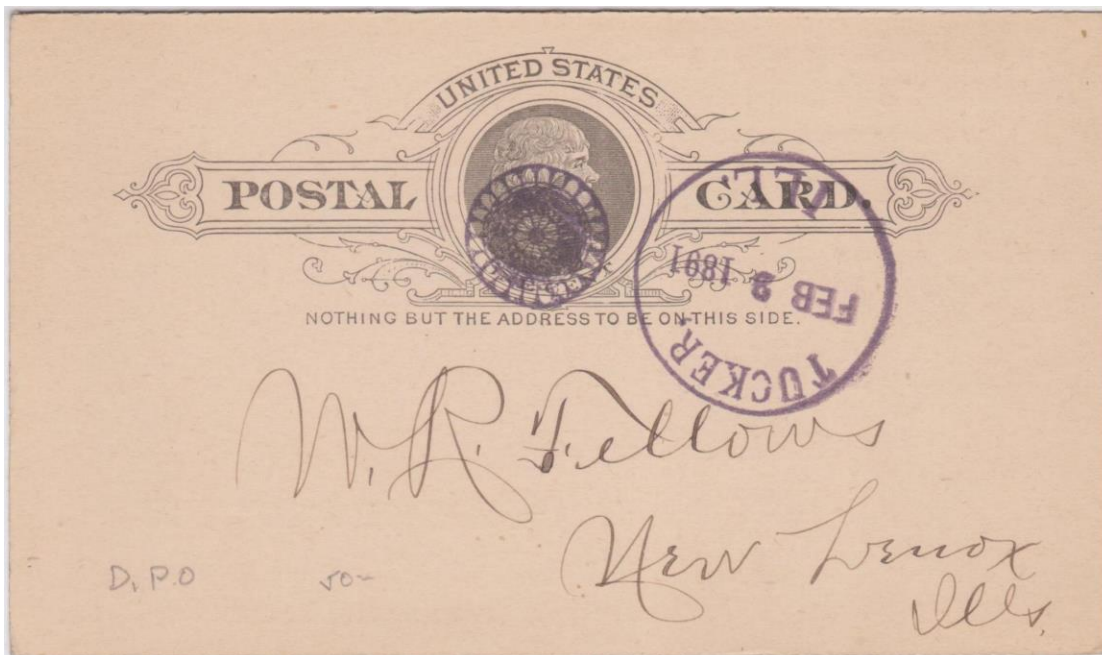
South Evanston, ILL
(Cook)
Feb 26, 1884



St. Francisville, ILL
(Lawrence)
Jun 5, 1885



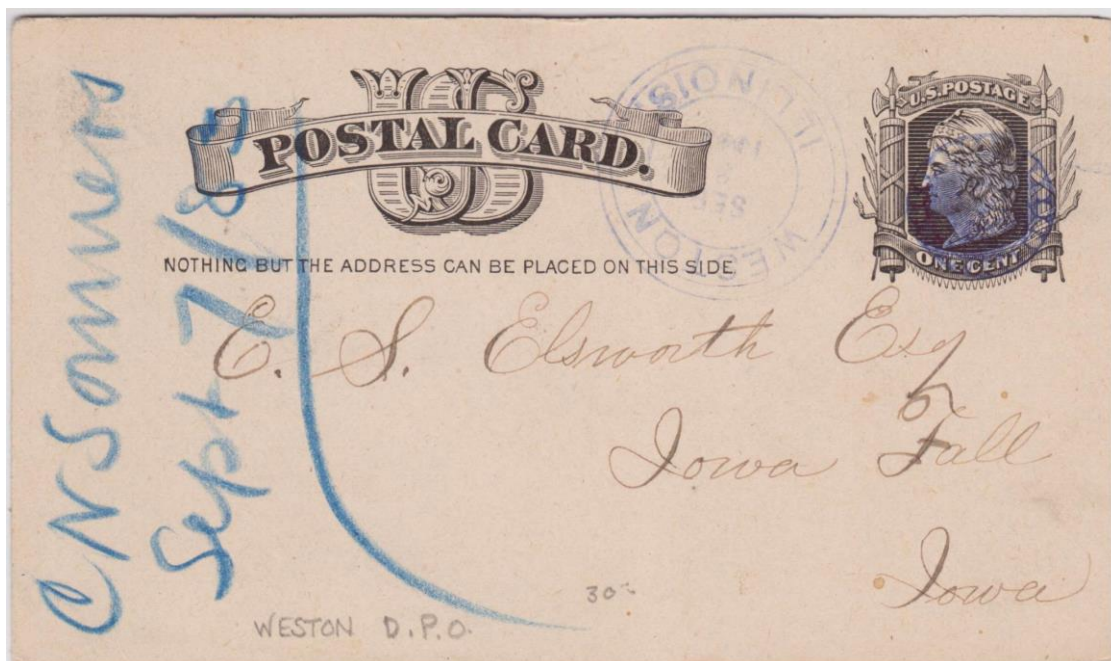
Tower Hill, ILL
(Shelby)
Nov 30, 1887



Tucker, ILL
(Washington)
Feb 3, 1891



West McHenry, ILL
(McHenry)
Jun 1, 1886



Weston, Illinois
(McLean)
Sep 8, 1883